

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted for approval to EC Members**

**Enhancement Committee**

**April 13, 2005**

Present:

Peter Riva

Mimi Babcock

Nan Seeburger

Vicki Doyle

Bill Carroll

Bill McGhee

Rail Trail Parking (DOT lot) – Bill Carroll reported that Pat Manning should be in the loop that Metro North has right to extend rail road north in future as needed. P.Riva said expansion is on the horizon.

Streetscape – Vicki: Move pole in Haverty parking lot. Need to stay on top of \_\_\_\_ company. Existing businesses using town property. As towns grow, pre-emptively looked at businesses and gave them a lease, before DOT got involved in road work. Makes sense to have a lease for x # of years. Let us see how far we can advance the information with Mike Hayes.

No drainage is needed.

Façade:

Letter went out, see what response will be. Fountain Press and other building is getting refurbished.

School will put a fence around, black top tennis courts for elementary school to play kick ball, will do \$20,000 or so in renovations.

DeLango and Mimi will work out time to look at plan. One thing that bothered him was painting and signage. He is representative for a company that needs red, white and blue theme, will check to what extent he needs to maintain these colors. But he was interested.

Communications & Develop –

Chamber of Commerce – help with purchasing star burst for Wassaic Christmas Tree

lighting. Need plans from electric co., put electric on the poles in Fountain Square – can they help underwrite this? The Town is being charged a cut rate for this service and will be charged cut rate in Wassaic.

Tech Fair - technology is an industry, well paid, scholarship of \$1,000 donated to student. Workforce Invest. Board said as we grow our town, should concentrate on developing technology and tourism. Retail takes up lots of space (we don't have) and don't pay well. Tech will not affect aquifer as heavily. Got a bus load of schools, but Fridays are difficult to get people to attend. ETC in Dover pays \$4-\$8/hr. more for employees, refurbished old building. Great thing of Tech industry is that Peter can run his small businesses from home, has 7 employees around the world, and with telecommunications, can live and work here. Important to potential investors is we have high speed internet, fiber optic pipeline gives us a T3line which is a big benefit to businesses. Tech fair exhibitors were happy with the fair, good for Amenia to host. Mimi – tech and weekenders will pay taxes and help build ball field.

Webmaster – has been hired. Protocol as discussed with Tech. committee. Design, feel, content is the responsibility of the Town Board. Legal issues, etc., but Town Board doesn't have time to do this. Peter has provided a draft protocol of what we can and can't do. Can put up notices of community interest, minutes from committees. Small change in design, format needs two signatures. Webmaster is not a web designer. Peter has submitted an outline of protocol, needs TB approval. Should be references between channel 22 and website.

Façade Plan - Next chamber of commerce should know that we have a façade plan, find out if any members are willing to help fund, like Dill's Best donating paint. Nan will consider this idea. Mimi will speak formally to Tribute Garden, George Whalen. Build an outdoor display

Other:

I have spoken with Dolores, and she has indeed made some good progress on issues we have spoken about.

Garden Tour is July 16. Diana King does not like beautification committee – she will discuss with Dolores and friends. Garden Tour will add one more garden on way to

Maxine Paetro's garden. Having it later will provide more access to Kildonan personnel who can help sit at gardens. Like to have private tour of press one week to 10 days prior for publicity. Week before events should be featured in papers.

April 16 clean up date.

P. Riva, Mimi, Vicki will be there at 9:30 am at Town Hall. Diana will bring teenagers.

Minutes – Peter – read, can vote by e-mail, then post on web.

Other – Sharon - section of land in Wassaic should be a walkway, greenway. Some owned by Pawling Corp, some by WACI. It is a hook lot, would make nice park. Elm trees are growing there near the stonework along Wassaic creek. Perhaps Presbyterian Church. Need to think about this in the near future.

At Maxon Mills - Flower boxes are planned alongside tracks. Gino plans to plant sunflowers there.

E-Mail Peter's comments of appreciation to Vicki to give to Judy Carlson and Woody Cohen and ask if it could be scanned in and put on website.

Addendum from Absent member:

From Dolores

Just to bring everyone up to date,

Townscape Committee We are tossing around names for the Townscape Committee, **'Amenia Beautification (Association, or Club or Society)**. Sue Gilmore & Diana King will decide and then I will accompany Wayne to the bank this week or next to make it official. When I speak to Sue Gilmore, I will tell her about April 16 cleanup and ask her to get some former members together. Herb & Norm usually help, Wayne will help also, if he is available. I'll try to make it, but that time begins my busy work time. If I can't, I may be able to get something done earlier.

Garden Tour Have met with Diana King and turned over all the files, with an explanation of all that needs to be done.

Street Tree Inventory (STI) Last fall we started the STI with Lou Sebesta from the DEC. I spoke with him yesterday and we will continue this in the end of May.

Grants I was able to get us listed on DEC's notification list when grants are available. Some that were mentioned at yesterday's meeting that may be of interest to Amenia come from 'Government Office of Small Cities' and Department of State "Quality Communities Task Force". Also DEC/NYSERTA give grants for planting trees for shade infrastructure.

#### Other grants

### **GRANTS & PROPOSALS**

#### **2005 EPA Wetland Protection Project Grants Request for Proposals: Proposal - due April 11**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, Division of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP), Water Programs Branch (WPB), Wetlands Protection Section is soliciting proposals for surveys, studies, investigations, demonstrations and training grants related to wetlands protection. For full information:<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/EPA/OGD/GAD/R2DEPP-FO-05-03/Grant.html>

#### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking proposals - due April 13**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking proposals from researchers in economics, business administration, law, decision sciences, and other social sciences to address issues associated with environmental information disclosure. For more full information: [http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2005/2005\\_ebd\\_rfa.html](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2005/2005_ebd_rfa.html).